

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREPUS



88
JUL

200
CANADA
170
IN U.S.

NOTE • FROM • THE PRESIDENT

So, there I am, barrelling along through this issue. No room for improvisation; I've had every panel in mind since the campaign issues of High Society. I wasn't so much writing this issue as transcribing it. Boom boom boom; the wall is filling up with pages. Damn the Aardvark Comments, Spunky, full speed ahead. Three pages a day and I'm doing it with ease. **Lookit** me, ma, I'm **drawin'**!

I'm Psyched, I'm up for it, I'm in there, I'm hot, I'm getting down, I'm on the edge.

Spunky's psyched, he's up for it, he's in there, he's hot, he's getting down, he's on the edge.

And that's when I hear about the Penthouse Apartment that's suddenly available. So while Spunky is booting it through the rest of the pages, I'm buying furniture and doing sketches of how I want the living room done, buying framed prints (including two of Marilyn Monroe for the guest bedroom, now christened the Monroom), moving all my clothes (an Herculean task, believe me), getting movers for everything else, arranging delivery of an Akai turner/amp/compact disc player/cassette player/turntable/VCR/television entertainment centre and within ten days from the time I saw the place, ten **days** mind you, everything is in place, working and I've got the perfect home for someone whose hobbies are pacing, musing out loud, philosophizing dangerously and cackling to himself for no particular reason.

Now what does this all mean for you, the gentle reader?

Well, at the time that I heard about the apartment it was August 18 and I was just about finished this, the July issue, #88. Had I started in on #89 the next day as originally planned, Ger and I would've been working on the August issue in August. And we might've had a start on the September issue in September. But it is September 1st today and I pencilled the first four pages of the August issues yesterday. So we now hope to have the August issues done by the middle of September when we leave for the U.K. Tour (17th) which means you could be reading it by September 30th or so (Deni's birthday). If, however we **don't** get it done by the time we leave for England we won't be able to finish it before October 6th or so (Deni's and my and my mum and dad's wedding anniversary) and you won't be reading it before October 22nd or so (my dad's birthday).

But,

After that, Ger and I (except for maybe spending a couple of days in New York at the end of November) will have most of October and November and December to produce the September, October, November and December issues which means if we can produce the January, February, March and April issues while we're gone to New Zealand for January, February and March, we can come back in April right on schedule for issue #97!

Or maybe we'll go to Hawaii for the winter.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

U.K. TOUR 86

September 19 - October 4

OCTOBER 25

DAVE SIM
COMIC RELIEF
357 Main Street,
Greenfield, MA.

NOVEMBER 8 & 9

DAVE SIM & GERHARD
Mid-Ohio-Con
Fairhaven Hall
Richland County Fair Grounds,
Mansfield, OHIO

NOVEMBER 22

DAVE SIM & GERHARD
The Philadelphia Marketplace
The Philadelphia Centre Hotel
J.F.K. Boulevard,
Philadelphia, PA.,

NOVEMBER 23

DAVE SIM & GERHARD
The New York Market Place
Roosevelt Hotel
Madison Avenue/46th Street,
New York City, NY.,

CEREBUS

NO. 88

JULY 1986

DAVE SIM
President

KAREN McKIEL
Administrator

GERHARD
Backgrounds, cover,
colour, and tones,

Circulation
33,000

CHURCH AND STATE
a novel

BOOK ONE
(Cerebus 52 to
Cerebus 56)
Après State

BOOK TWO
Cerebus 57 to
Cerebus 63)
Back to Test

BOOK THREE
(Cerebus 64 to
Cerebus 80)
Church and State

BOOK FOUR
(Cerebus 81 to
Cerebus 89)
The Sacred Wars

BOOK FIVE
Astoria

BOOK SIX
The Final Ascension

BOOK SEVEN
Denouement
and
Epilogue

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MONTHLY BY AARDVARK-
VANAHEIM INC. PO BOX
1674 STN. C KITCHENER
ONTARIO CANADA N2G 4R2
ALL CONTENTS ©1986 DAVE
SIM. PRINTED IN CANADA
BY PRENEY PRINT & LITHO
INC., WINDSOR, ONTARIO

OUT
WITH THE
IN
CROWD

ARTEMIS!



ARTEMIS!

STOP!

WHAT
ARE YOU...





WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LET HIM THROUGH

MM!

YOU WANT A CHALLENGE, EPO??

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

WHAT'S HE SAYING? I CAN'T HEAR HIM UP HERE

BAH!

LET HIM THROUGH

POP!

FIGHT.

FIGHT.

POPE FIGHT

OPE FIGHT

I CAN'T REMEMBER MOST MONKS, BUT I'M SURE HE IS ONE OF THOSE MONKS...

SQUISH

AK!
OUTED THE WAY
BACK UP!
OUCH

BOY BACK!
KUN!
OOPS

ONE HAT TO THE FIVE
KIDS

GOING THE KIDS
HE!



PUNCH
SMACK
PUNCHIE
PUNCHIE
PUNCHIE

FIGHTING
LIKE A TWO
YEAR OLD
BABY
ROACH.

HAVE TO HIT
THE NERVE
CLUSTER
UNDER HIS
LEFT ANKLE

KICK
KICKA
KICKA
KICKA
KICK

CLIMBING
KEEP
CLIMBING
...

I
CAN'T
LOOK.

ALL
DONE?

PUFF.

PUFF.

PUFF.



WHERE
"AH SAY
WHERE
AM I...?"

THE
LAST THING
AM REMEMBER
AM WAS

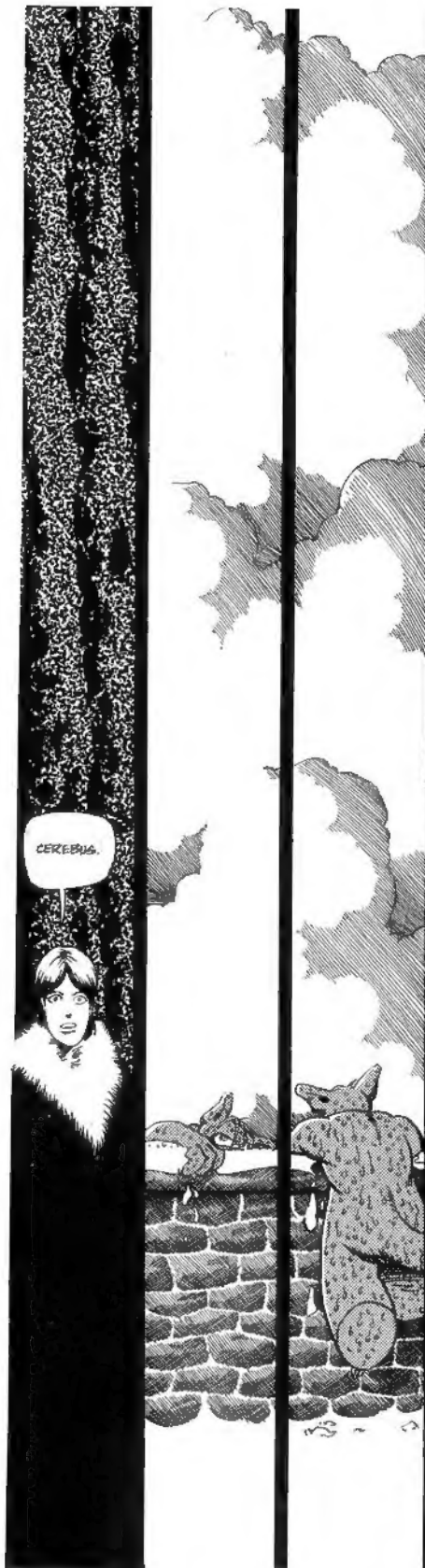
SHRIEK

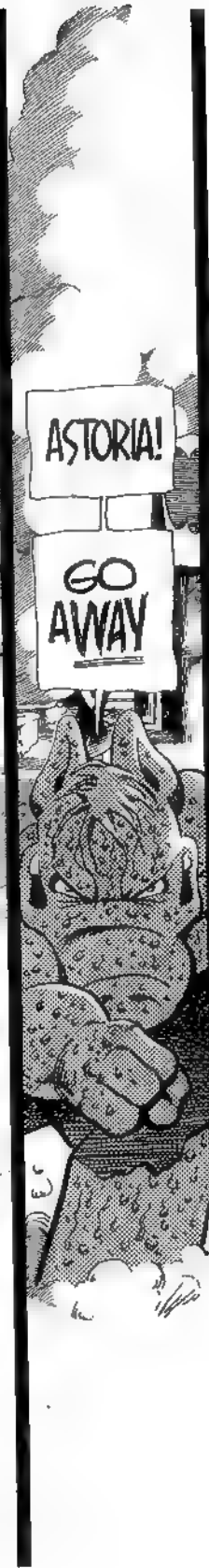


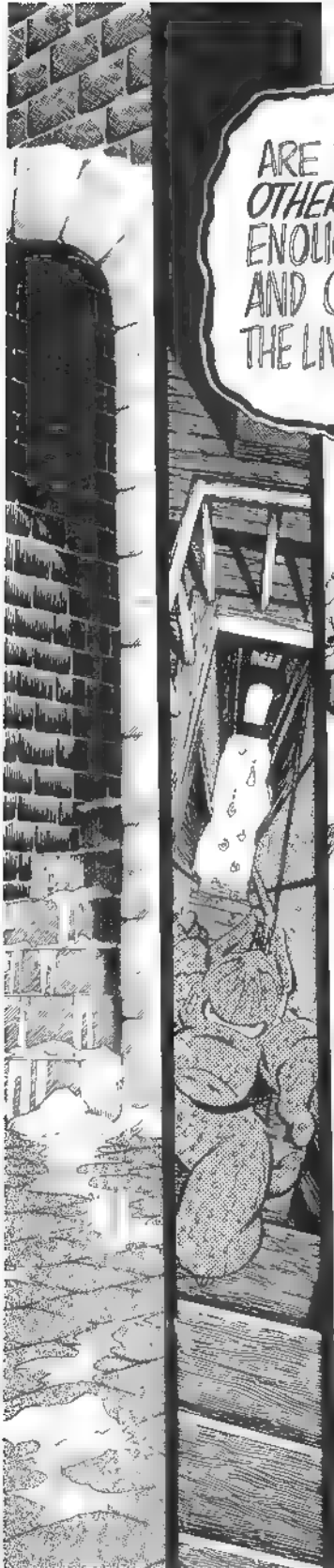
HAVE TO TRY
AND REACH
THE GOLD
MYSELF

SEE
IF...

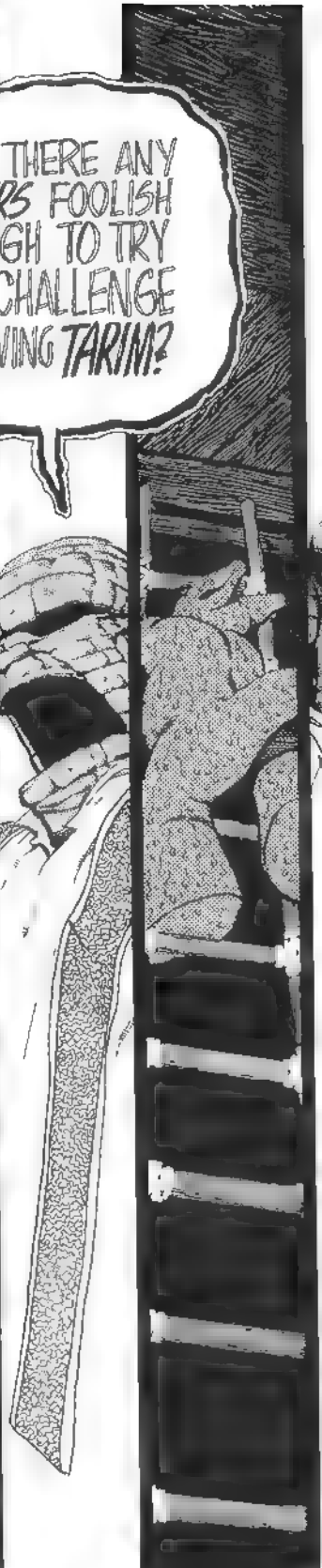
ALMOST
THERE
ALMOST
THERE







ARE THERE ANY
OTHERS FOOLISH
ENOUGH TO TRY
AND CHALLENGE
THE LIVING *TARIM*?



MY POWER IS
ABSOLUTE!
NONE MAY STAND
AGAINST ME!

TARIM IS COME
ONCE MORE--TO
LAY WASTE THE
FALSE TEMPLES

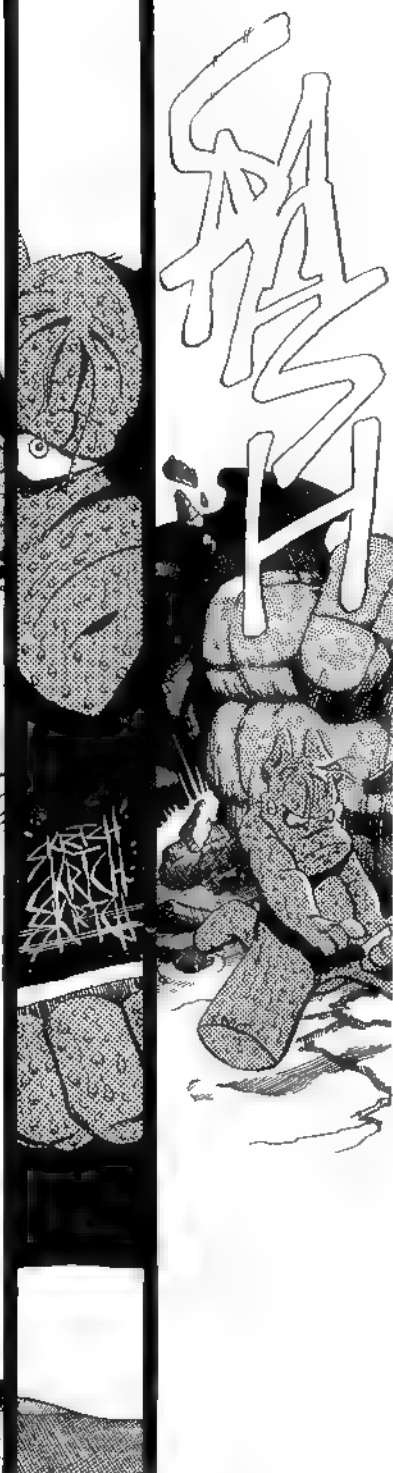
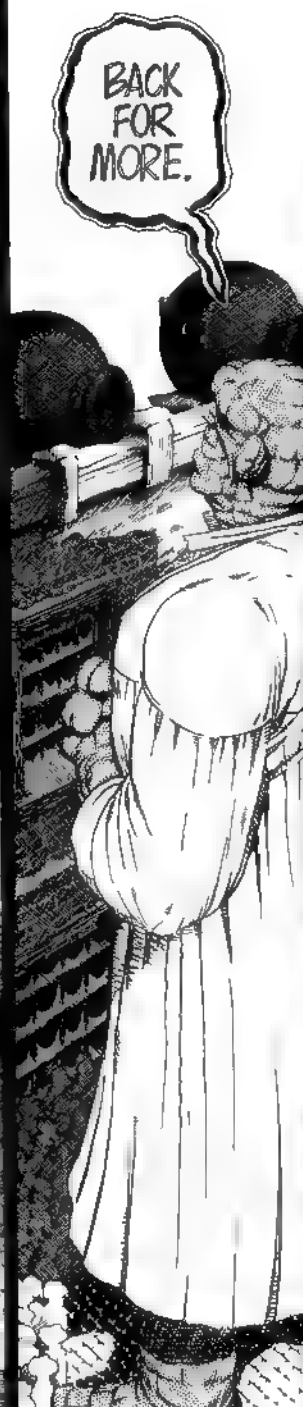
TO STRIKE
DOWN THE
BLASPHEMERS!
TO DESTROY...

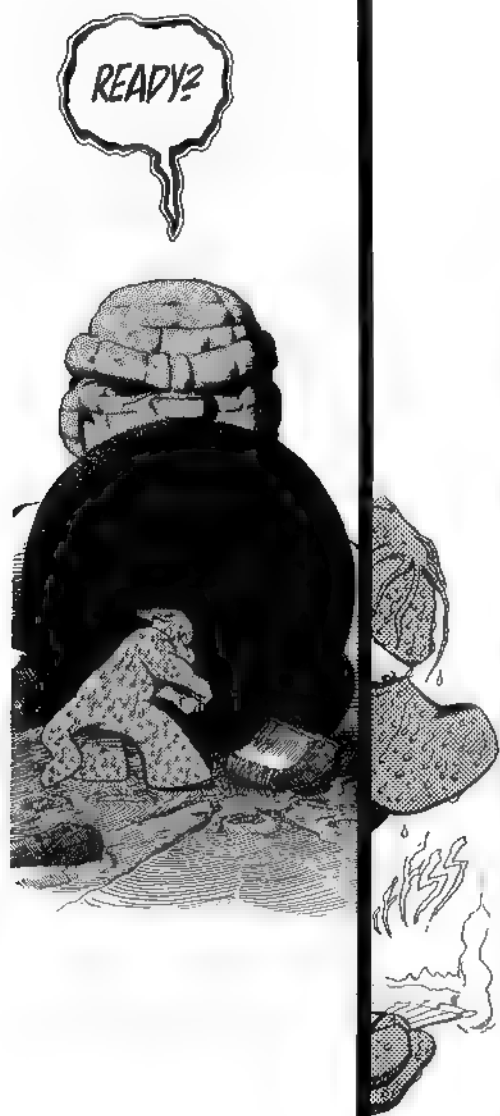
UH?

BRUSH
BRUSH

GOOD LUCK

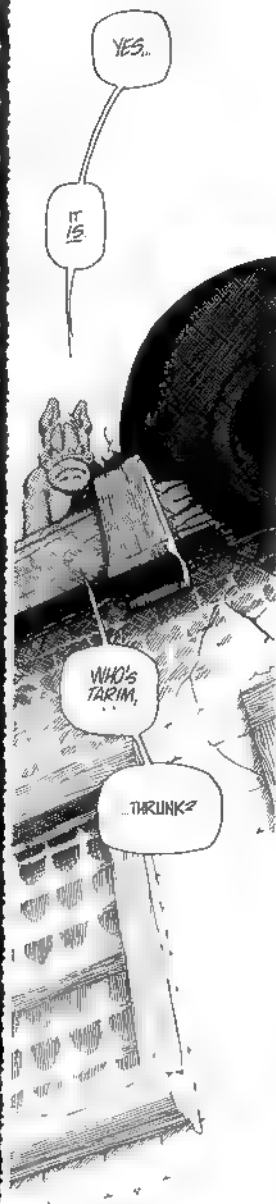
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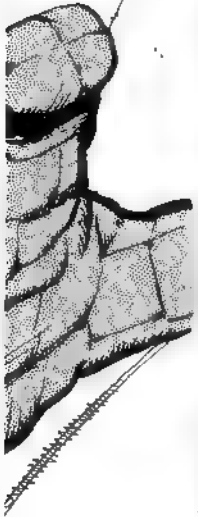


THE POPE IS FALLING!
LOOK OUT
RUN! RUN!
HELP!
INCOMING WOUNDED

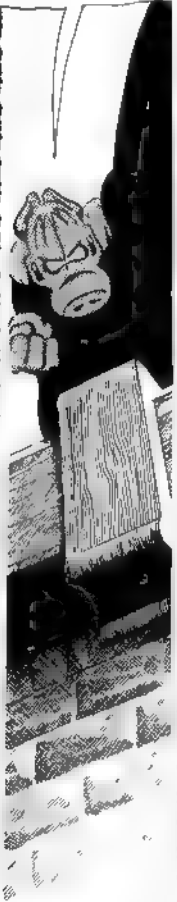


WHO'S TARIM,
...THUNK?

WHO'S
TARIM
NECROSS 1/2

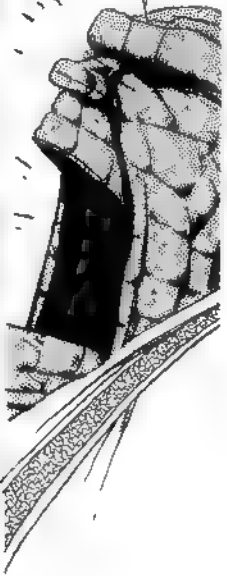


WHO?!



YOU ARE!

YOU!



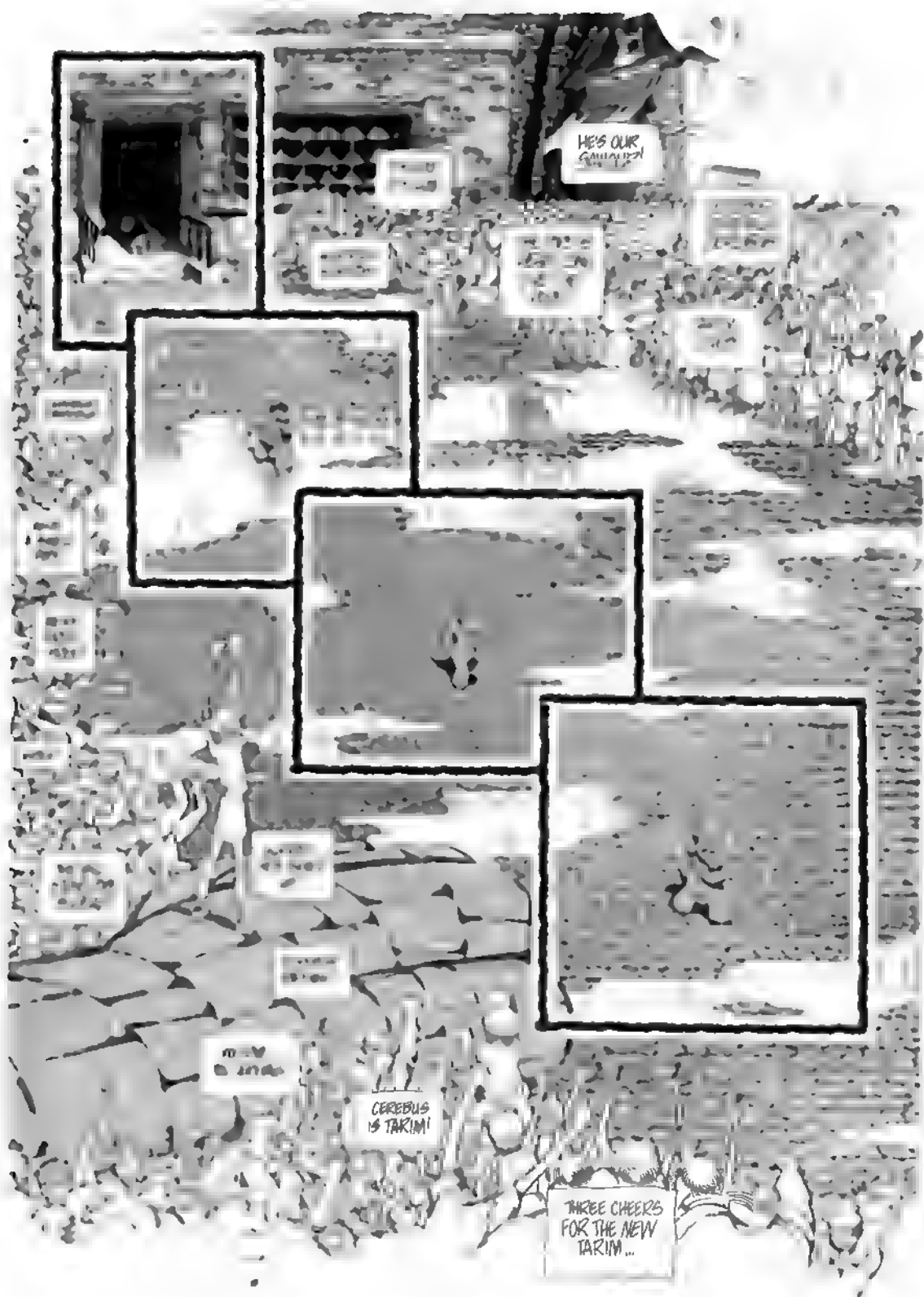


DAMN
RIGHT



NOOO

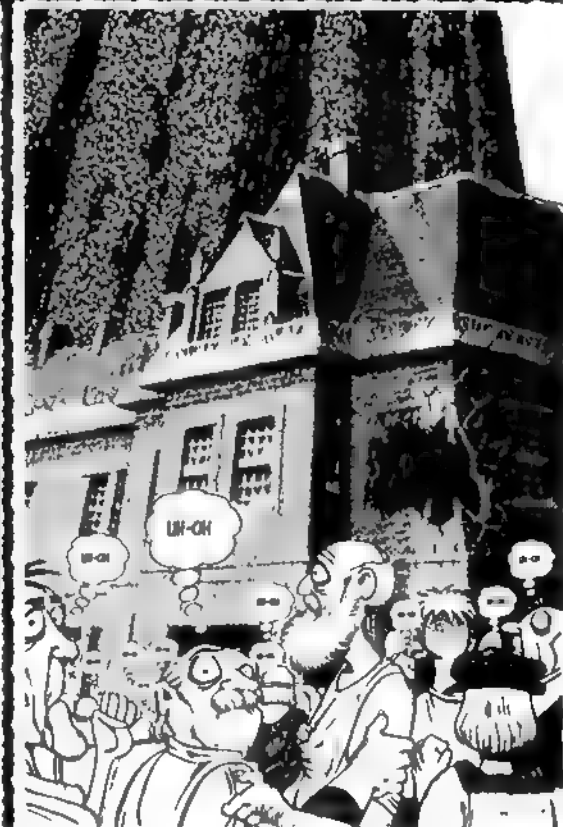
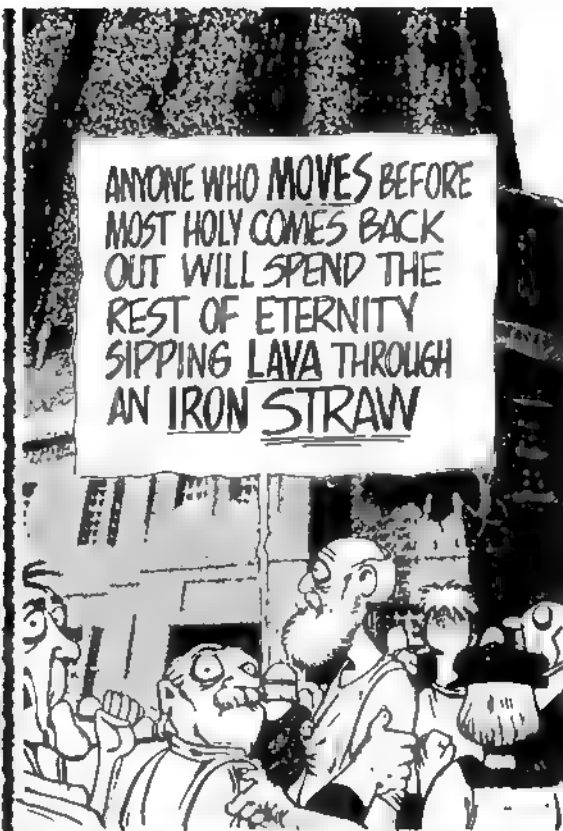
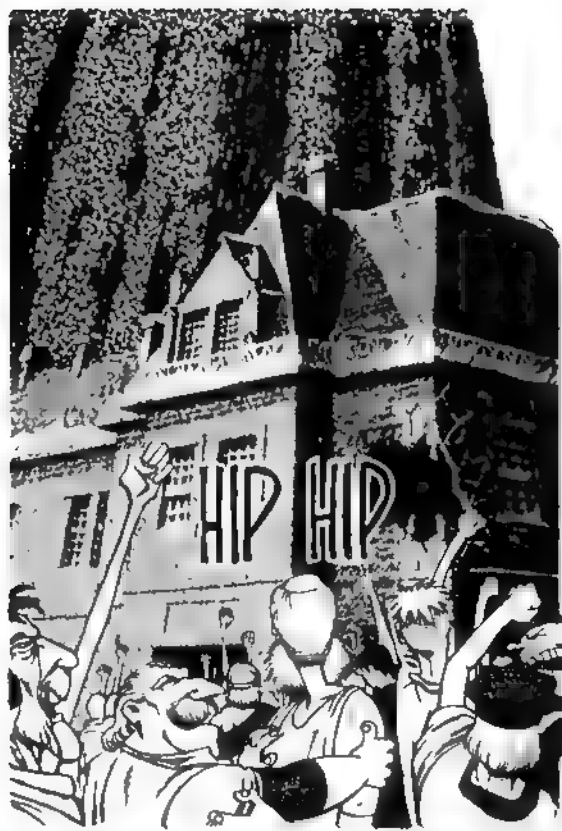
POW

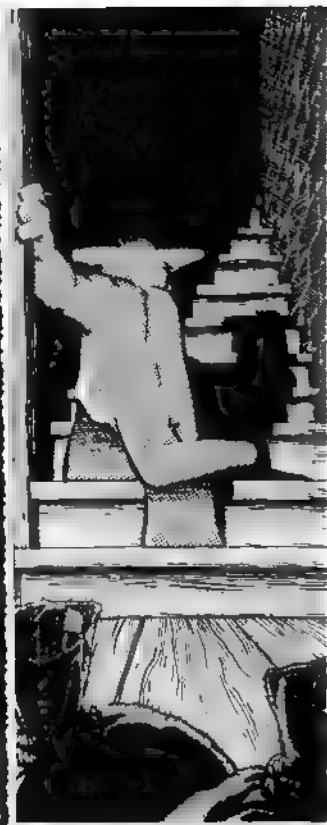
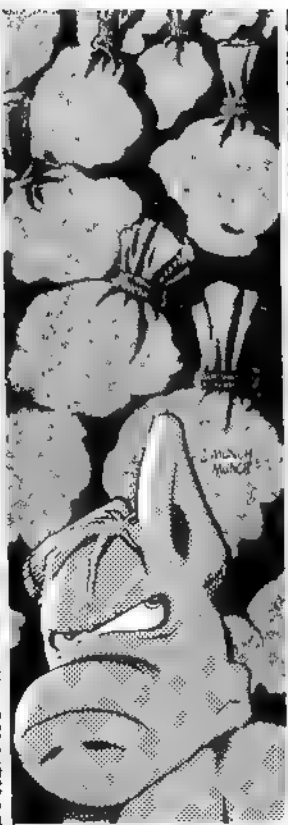
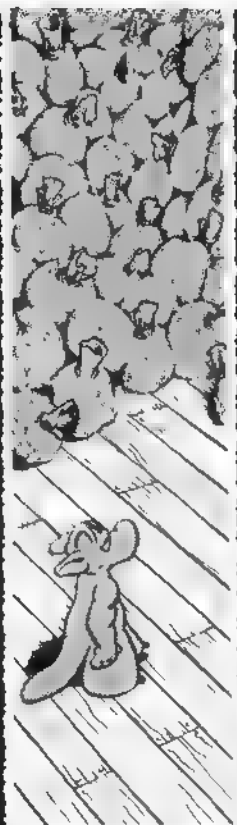


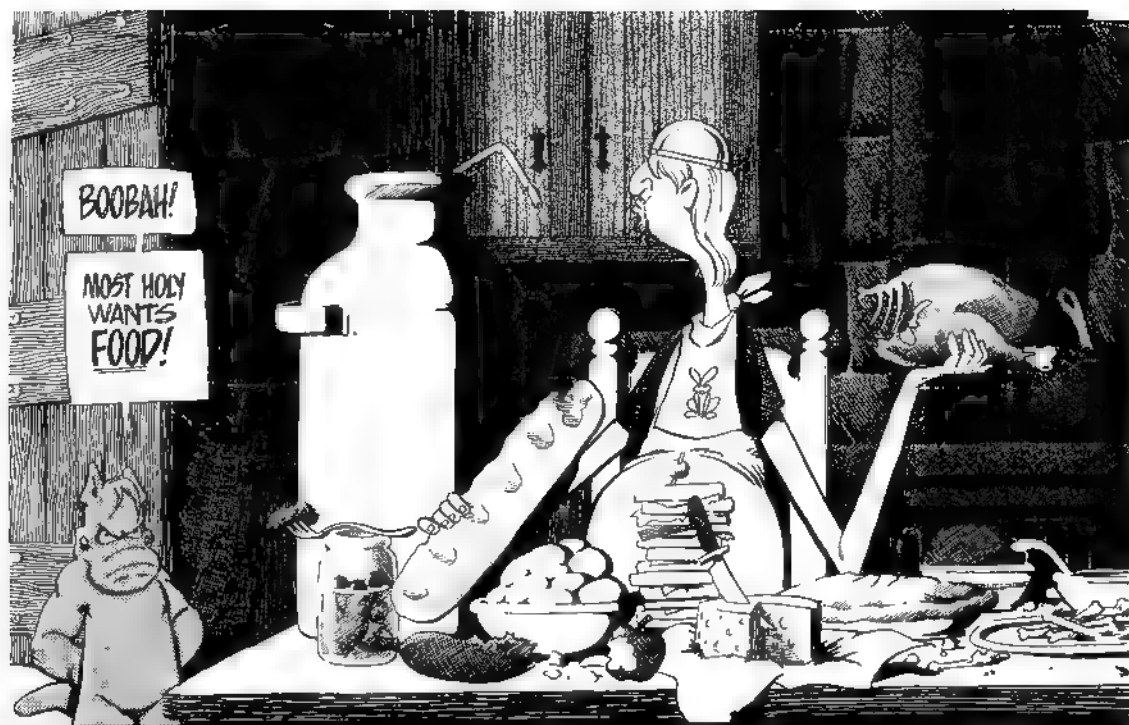
HE'S OUR
CHAMPION!

CEREBUS
IS TAKIM!

THREE CHEERS
FOR THE NEW
TAKIM...







NEXT: *dead friends*

15th Anniversary PARTY



COME AND SEE YOUR
FAVOURITE ARTISTS

AT

NOW AND THEN BOOKS



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- KEN STEACY
- SETH
- RICK TAYLOR & DAVE DARRIGO
- BILL MARKS

—CEREBUS

—MARVEL FANFARE
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—VORTEX COMICS

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90 QUEEN ST. S., KITCHENER, ONT.
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ARMADILLO COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave,

I have been reading Cerebus for about a year now, and I have about half of all the Cerebus issues. No offense, but I think The Sacred Wars is very boring. In my opinion I think you should have more stuff like in ish #59, when Cerebus' britches are too tight and his tail pops out of the front and it looks like he has a half-boner. More funny stuff. I'm hoping to be a comic book artist later in my boring life, so could you please answer these questions?

1. How did you get started (making Cerebus into a comic book)?
2. How much profit do you get each month from making Cerebus?
3. About how many letters do you get each month?

By the way, do you happen to have a spare issue of Cerebus #1 (original)?

No?

Damn.

Another Cellyboose Fan,
4010 Nathan Ln.,
Plymouth, MN., 55441

1. Page one, panel one, issue one.
2. Way too much.
3. About seventy to a hundred.

The first answer is about the only one you have to concern yourself with right now.

Dear Mr. Sim -

I just read in CGB #668 your announcement that High Society will not be made available to specialty shops.

Without an explanation for this, I must assume you are trying to eliminate middle-man discounts to distributors and retailers. If that is so, do you think it fair, considering that the specialty shops have supported Cerebus for so long? That Cerebus has no outlet except for us?

Regards,

Fourth World Comics,
Stan Hager,
532 No. Country Road,
St. James, NY., 11780

The last high price item we released through the distributors and retailers was The Animated Cerebus portfolio. 45 plates, full colour, twelve dollars. I assumed a reasonable price and nice package would sell. We lost \$17,000 and I didn't come crying to you guys, did I?

Dear Amazing Dave & Ger,

The two Mick 'n Keef issues have had time to sink in now. What can I say about the art? Such loving detail on the side of the mountain or whatever it is turning out to be. And I cracked up at your Stones dialogue, Dave. You've got the music of it down pat. As good as your Groucho stuff, and that is high praise.

Dave, are you just masochistic

these days, or are all your letters really running as bozo-esque as the two you printed in number 86? You know the ones.....

Dear Mr. Tolkien,

I just read twenty pages in a row of Lord of the Rings, and I think you are losing your touch.

Page 245: boring, they just talk.

Page 246: Something happens - a rock just misses our heroes.

Maybe you've got it back.

Page 247: just a bridge crossing - no character development, no action, nothing. You've definitely lost it. You haven't done any real character development since Frodo got his shiny new jacket back on page 152.

....

All in all, Mr Tolkien I have read every page of your book, there isn't a well-told fully developed story on a single page of them. You ought to read Rambo - My True Struggle, Sir. Now that's literature!

I don't know why I still waste my money on you.

Threateningly yours,

Buck Futt

Prairie Pastry, NEB.,

For my part, every time I catch my breath in Cerebus, the book hangs a left turn and soars off dizzily again. I enjoyed the ride even back in #69, to say nothing of now.

Speaking of the mountain, no wonder you did so many careful establishing shots back in 68-73! Here it is almost ten issues since we last saw a City on top of that mountain, and yet we all know where it ought to be - the shock effect worked just fine.

Jeff Bull
Cupertino, CA.,



Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dept:

I've been promising the relatives that I'd print this. It is, of course, me, age two from the Hamilton Spectator, March 14, 1959 and the original caption read, "Caught in the act! Master David Sim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sim, of Stoney Creek returns from a tour of exploration. Looks as though it was a rough-trip." Cute little bastard, wasn't I?

Well, maybe a little bit masochistic, but there's a lot of Buck Futt's out there, Jeff.

Dear Dave:

All right, so you aren't completely nice. The terminal "niceness" that has infected your storyline hasn't completely overrun your letter page (reply to Lingus, #86). Still, the albino's return (He happens to be one of my favorite characters) should have brought with it such classic lines as "Mind your manners. Boy! I've got a pointy hat!" (#4) or "Blink twice if any of this is getting through to you!" (What issue was that from?).

I'm still disappointed, Dave, but not as much as before.

The story seems to be moving along, but I'm still confused. I guess this is just evidence of your superior intellect and educational background. Far be it from me to begrudge and credit from such an obvious mental titan. It must be genetic. I bet your parents were wizards, too. In fact, if I ever need blueprints of an anus, I think I'll call them. They must have great ones, seeing how you came out. And your mom gives wonderful mouth to lap resuscitation. Sorry, I actually don't want to insult your parents, they've got enough problems.

'Sammatter, can't take a joke?

*Ethan Kalet
Brooklyn, NY.,*

Sure I can. You know any?

Dear Dave,

Just letting you know that the story-line has been leaving enough time-between-progress-of-plot behind to get things cluttery and exasperating. I really like the Stones stuff, but because Cerebus is an ongoing story, and because it hasn't been terribly ongoing since Weissaupt kicked off, the Stones stuff also leaves me kind of cold. I don't know what you ultimately have in mind, and your talent is proven, so I plan to shut up, and buy the occasional Cerebus until something makes picking up the back issues worth it.

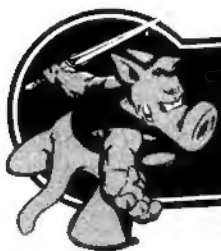
I am a professional dancer of 5 years, and have slaved for 11 years with training. Nobody has ever heard of me, probably; this is just now impressing me with the eternal ups and downs of the Long Haul. I hope you keep going, and fix whatever's weird with your book right now, because an individual that stops dreaming, rolls up his sleeves and actually gets something done is statistically rare. The world really needs these people.

A guy like you is inspiring to a guy like me, whether you're on a hot-streak or not. That's what I've been trying to say. I hope it's not pathetic or corny.

Good luck,

*Lee Thompson
1801 E. 12, #1117
Cleveland, OH., 44114*

If I were to go by the mail, conversations with fans and fanzine reviews, I wouldn't be able to tell if I was on a hot streak or not. That's what life is like after the Long Haul, Lee.



AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

Hi Guys,

We'd like to welcome Joyce Harrison from Liverpool (no relation, but she did see them at the Cavern on a trip home) who has been taking your phone orders and Jeff Nurcombe who is wrapping your books as fast as his little Jeff Nurcombe hands can wrap. And lest we forget.....

The first edition, consisting of six thousand copies is being sold on a first-come first-serve basis by VISA and MASTERCARD phone orders, certified cheque or money order only. Single copies are \$20.00 US and \$25.00 CDN plus \$2.00 for postage, or 1 box of 18 books for \$300.00 US and \$400.00 CDN (boxes will be shipped UPS). Please call (519) 576-7820.

The fifteen hundred and fifty-two copies sold of the six thousand printed has made the first edition **High Society** our most successful project to date.

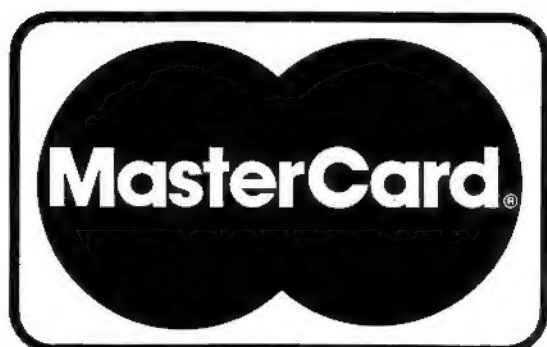
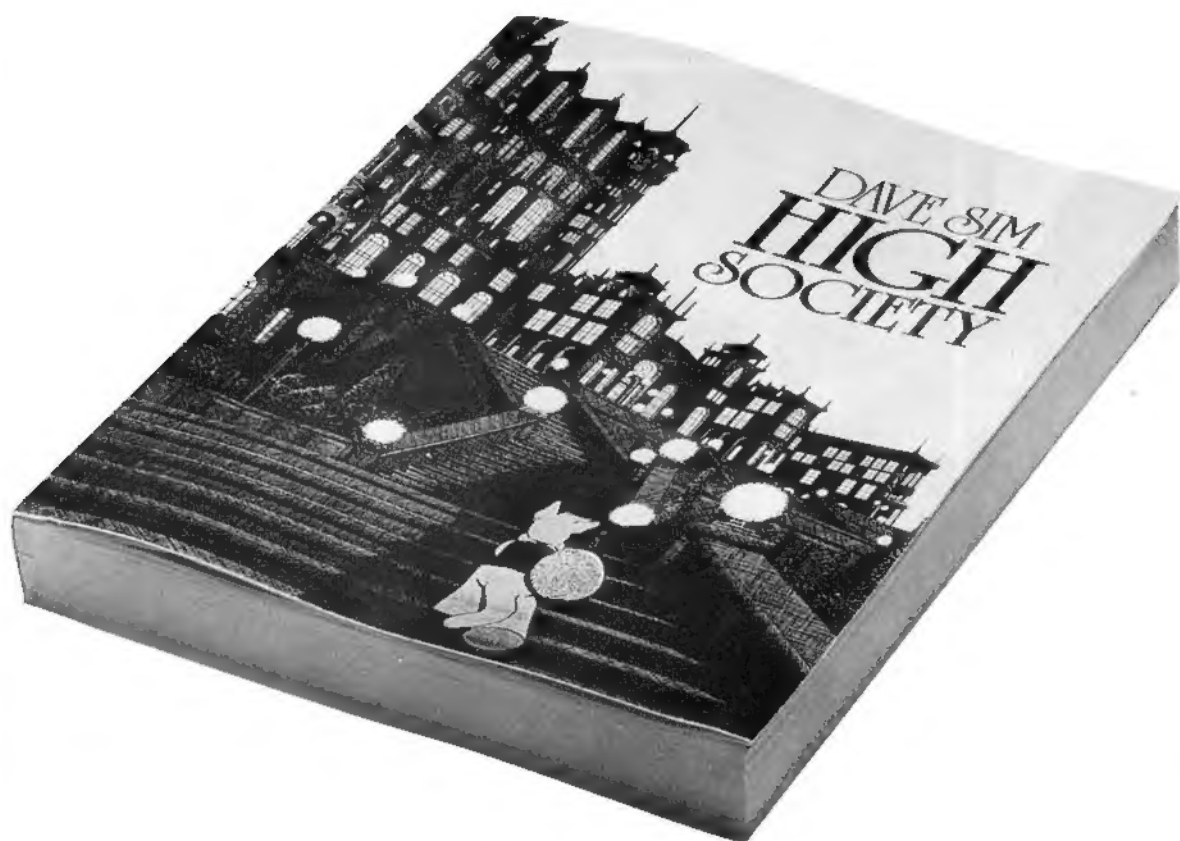
You've made a grown man croy.

Thanew very motch.

Dave Sim, president
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.,

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CEREBUS

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM